



**Virginia Indian Advisory Board
Recognition Workgroup
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Monday, October 17, 2022

Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm

Location: Virtual – Teams

Committee Members Present:

**Buck Woodard
Brad Hatch
Pam Ross
Greg Smithers
Jean Kelley**

Committee Members Absent:

None

Non-Members in Attendance:

**Chief Terry Price
Gary Price
Annette Price
Erik Conyers
Pamela D'Angelo
Brandon Custalow
Gregg Kimball
Suzanne Holland
Alan Bart**

Committee Business:

- Old Business**
 - **Approval of September 22 minutes.**
 - **Buck: Asks for additions or changes to minutes.**
 - **Greg: Moves to approve. Second by Pam. Motion passes.**
 - **Reports circulated for Criteria 1-4, review.**
 - **Buck: Start with Criterion 1.**
 - **Brad: Summarizes his Criterion 1 summary document. Split decision, 3 to 2 for meeting this criterion.**
 - **Buck: Summary of what we decided Criterion 1 was about, mainly whether Cherokee lived in Virginia.**
 - **Greg: Work group evaluation related to how one interprets available evidence, which is reflected in split nature of decision. Materials from**



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historical perspective don't necessarily support, but materials from other disciplines certainly could be interpreted that way.

- **Buck:** Reminder that workgroup does not make a decision, just a recommendation.
 - **Buck:** Summarizes report for Criterion 2. This criterion is mostly about individuals identifying as Indian. At least maintained for last four decades, but limited evidence for early 1900s. Work group unanimously accepts the fulfillment of this criterion by the petitioner.
 - **Greg:** Self-identification is important here and key. But, none of the three Federally-recognized Cherokee have offered support and that is a concern.
 - **Greg:** Summarizes report for Criterion 3. Requires substantial amount of evidence to fulfill. Some overlap with Criterion 1. Issues with most of the family groups not being centered in Virginia until the 1900s. Workgroup unanimously agrees that the evidence for this Criterion is deficient.
 - **Buck:** This criterion requires ongoing presence in Virginia, though movement is okay if connection is maintained, but no evidence is presented for that. There is a gap where there is no sustained presence in Virginia.
 - **Jean:** For Criterion 4, emphasizing that this is a single extended family. Still cannot find any documented Indian ancestry in genealogy research. Weight of evidence suggests family is descended from European immigrants, from PA, tidewater VA, and NC. Self-identification comes from captive stories that exist in family's oral traditions.
 - **Buck:** Notes that there are holes, as mentioned already, particularly as related to women.
 - **Jean:** All people appear as white on documentation with no variation.
 - **Buck:** Virginia and North Carolina are notorious for racial identifications not necessarily matching with ethnicity.
 - **Greg:** Identification as white far predates Plecker era.
 - **Jean:** This family not in Virginia during Plecker period.
 - **Buck:** Lack of variation in racial identification in records does appear significant, but different documents in different places can identify the same person as different races.
- **Request for a meeting with Wolf Creek Petitioner and Counsel to review status.**
 - **Suzanne:** Petitioner contacted the Commonwealth's counsel and it will stay with them since they have been handling requests for information.



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- **Suzanne Holland update on Attorney General representative direction on timeline for Workgroup report and presentation to VIAB; VIAB recommendation to Secretary of Commonwealth.**
 - **Suzanne: November 26 is the deadline they have been operating on for the workgroup report to the Board. 365 days from the time the workgroup convened. Report will be published on website after Board finalizes. Presentation is a minimum of 30 days notice prior to meeting, but there is no set deadline. Earliest would be December 26 based on that timeline. General Assembly starts second week of January, which could be more difficult in terms of support and space. Suzanne is leaving, and Erik will be taking over for her.**
- **New Business**
 - **Review of new materials submitted to satisfy Criterion #5.**
 - **Buck: Reads Criterion #5. Show that the group has been culturally cohesive. Some new evidence and narrative, but nothing substantive. Rereads our original recommendation. Evidence only shows cohesion for approximately 40 years, but very little for the twentieth century.**
 - **Greg: Nothing new that would change original opinion.**
 - **Buck: Community cohesion is not in doubt for the 21st century, but that kind of evidence should be brought back through time. Narrative and evidence to support this is lacking. Also, difficult when it's one extended family so there are fewer people to interact with.**
 - **Review of new materials submitted to satisfy Criterion #6.**
 - **Buck: Reads Criterion #6. About formal contemporary organization. Mostly technical questions and slight modifications. Jean had some concern about base roll, but we had previously decided that was not necessary to fulfill this.**
 - **Pam: Did we discuss a narrative about this in relation to the corporation papers and how the names on that were different from who is on the rolls now.**
 - **Buck: We did not receive any narrative related to this.**
 - **Jean: Criterion 6 requires identifiable Indians and we don't have them here.**
 - **Buck: Summarizes our previous debates and conclusions about how descent was held separate from many of these other criteria.**
 - **Greg: Tends to agree with Jean that if there is no evidentiary base then this Criterion can't be met.**
 - **Reports on Criteria 5-6.**
 - **Buck: Can Pam write a paragraph for #6 and can Jean to make sure it's included? Just a short summary.**
 - **Brad: Will do the summary of #6.**
 - **Buck: Will do the summary of #5.**



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- **Organizing VIAB Report.**
 - **Buck:** This will be published online as a pdf. Bare structure: Title page, TOC, Criteria with remarks, Works Cited.
 - **Jean:** Would appendices be helpful to VIAB.
 - **Buck:** In favor of appendices, but the Google Drive is owned by Annette Price so there may be some technical issues with that.
 - **Pam:** Have to be careful with appendices if they contain sensitive information.
 - **Greg Kimball:** VIAB has access to material in Google Drive and have been reviewing it.
 - **Jean:** Discussion figures, links, etc.
 - **Brad:** Keep it streamlined and useful for VIAB.
 - **Buck:** What is best way to do this? Google Doc?
 - **Jean:** What about File Cloud? Good way to edit online and can look at everybody's comments. A word document posted on that.
 - **Buck:** Would like to get this done before Thanksgiving. About a month to do it. I will organize the single document that brings all of the different summaries into one.
 - **Greg:** End date in mind for having it all together?
 - **Buck:** Two weeks from today to have drafts to Buck. Draft deadline of November 20 (editing done and to VIAB). Presentation looking toward January. Think on format of presentation to address next meeting.
- **Public comment**
 - **Annette Price:** Discussion of Criterion 3 and list of people who lived in Virginia. Discussion of race of petitioner. Discussion of Cherokee opinion related to other petitioning groups. Base roll can be used, but not necessary, as stated in Criterion #6. Notes that comment had been made by workgroup members that Criterion #4 had been met, as it was written. Still interest in meeting with workgroup. Narrative may be difficult to create. Can add Buck's name to Google Drive if he needs to move things around for presentation.
 - **Gary Price:** Most family born at home and got birth certificates in later years. Identification as indigenous is word of mouth.
 - **Buck:** Acknowledges the wording of the criteria and the applicant's assessment, particularly with relation to Criterion #4.
- **Announcements and polling for next meeting**
 - **Next Meeting** Wednesday, November 16 6-8 PM
- **Meeting adjourned 7:36 pm**